

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION to recognize Coach Delmar Harris  
for his continued success as a basketball coach.

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**PAUL**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

First Regular Session 116th General Assembly (2009)

## SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION to recognize Coach Delmar Harris for his continued success as a basketball coach.

*Whereas, Coach Delmar Harris is a national coaching legend with strong Hoosier roots. Born in Plainfield, Indiana, he found a love for basketball that has stayed with him his entire life;*

*Whereas, In high school, Del was an all conference player at Plainfield High School and set the school's free throw record. He went on to Milligan College in Tennessee, where he graduated cum laude in 1959 with a degree in Religion. While at Milligan he was a three-year all conference player, Milligan's all-time scoring leader, and free throw record holder;*

*Whereas, Returning to Indiana, Del earned a master's degree in History from Indiana University in 1965. He also began his coaching career working with Roachdale, Dale, and Spencer High Schools. Coach Harris is the only NBA coach to also have won an IHSAA sectional title;*

2009

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*Whereas, Coach Harris took a coaching job at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana before entering the world of professional basketball. During his nine year stay, he coached his team to a school-record one hundred seventy-six victories and the first three conference championships in school history;*

*Whereas, Del's first professional coaching job was as assistant coach for the Utah Stars in 1975. When that franchise folded, Coach Harris entered the NBA as assistant coach for the Houston Rockets in 1976. He was promoted to head coach during the 1979-80 season. As head coach, Del led his team to three playoffs and a trip to the 1981 NBA finals;*

*Whereas, Coach Harris went to work for the Milwaukee Bucks in 1983. First working as a scout and assistant coach, he moved into the head coaching position in 1987. During his four full years as head coach, he took the Bucks to four consecutive playoff appearances;*

*Whereas, Harris continued to build his winning record as head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers. He joined coaches Pat Riley and Phil Jackson as the only coaches in franchise history to deliver three consecutive fifty-plus wins in a season. For his efforts he was also named 1995 NBA Coach of the Year;*

*Whereas, Moving to Texas, Del spent seven seasons as assistant coach with the Mavericks. Most recently, he was hired as assistant coach for the Chicago Bulls on July 3, 2008. Del was brought into the Bulls for his winning experience and to lend advice and guidance to rookie head coach Vinny Del Negro;*

*Whereas, Outside the NBA, Coach Harris has become a respected internationally renowned coach. In 1998 he coached Team USA to a bronze medal at the World Championships of Basketball held in Athens, Greece. He also found success with Puerto Rico's National Superior League, leading them to three national championships during his seven year tenure;*



*Whereas, In addition to Puerto Rico, Coach Harris has served as advisor to the Canadian team during the 1994 World Games and coach of the Chinese national men's team. Del led the Chinese, including NBA All-Star Yao Ming, to an eighth place finish at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece;*

*Whereas, Coach Delmar Harris is a true coaching legend. In twelve seasons as an NBA head coach he earned an overall record of five hundred fifty-six wins to four hundred fifty-seven losses with three different teams. He has also made twenty-six NBA Playoff appearances;*

*Whereas, In his fifty years of coaching, Coach Del Harris has enjoyed success at all levels - NBA, collegiate, overseas, and high school. For his success he has been inducted into both the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame; and*

*Whereas, From his roots in Plainfield, Indiana, Coach Harris has gained international notoriety through his basketball coaching career. Indiana is proud to have helped foster his love of basketball and reaped the rewards of his talent at the beginning of his career: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1       SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate hereby recognizes Coach
- 2 Delmar Harris for his basketball coaching success in every venture.
- 3       SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
- 4 transmit a copy of this resolution to Plainfield High School, Earlham
- 5 College, and Coach Delmar Harris and his wife Anne.

